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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,428	11/30/2001	Paul Nelson	IF-G1	3332
23996	7590	04/16/2004	EXAMINER	
RICK MARTIN PATENT LAW OFFICES OF RICK MARTIN, PC 416 COFFMAN STREET LONGMONT, CO 80501			HOGE, GARY CHAPMAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3611	

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,428

Applicant(s)

NELSON, PAUL

Examiner

Gary C Hoge

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-12,16-19 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11,16-19 and 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,7,9,10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the complementary display units being integral with the carry basket, as optionally recited in claim 23, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

Replacement Drawing Sheets

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks, section of the amendment. Any replacement drawing sheet must be identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin.

Annotated Drawing Sheets

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheets must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and accompany the replacement sheets.

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Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 2, it appears that "a panel" should be "a display panel" in order to provide antecedent basis for the several occurrences of this term later in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 6, 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Routzahn et al.

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Routzahn et al. discloses a shopping basket 21 for carrying merchandise and a display unit 20, the display unit 20 including a display panel 26 for receiving and displaying an advertisement 40, and a connection member 30 supporting the display panel and connected to the merchandise-carrying basket 21, such that the display panel 20 extends outwardly from the basket (see Fig. 2) and is viewable from above (see Fig. 1) while allowing a plurality of like baskets to be nested.

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Regarding claim 6, the connection member **30** is connected to an upper portion of the front side wall of the basket. See Fig. 2.

Regarding claim 9, the display unit **20** includes a connection member **30** having an extension head that extends along one of the side walls of the basket and attaches thereto (see Fig. 2) to retain the display unit **20** in position.

Regarding claim 10, see Fig. 2. Part **30** can be considered a "protruding ear" that interfits into openings in one of the side walls of the basket to provide a secure fitting of the display unit.

Regarding claim 12, the recitation that the display panel has displayed thereon "an advertisement or a shop direction aid" has not been given patentable weight because it has been held that patentable novelty cannot be principally predicated on mere printed matter and arrangements thereof, but must reside basically in physical structure. *In re Montgomery*, 102 USPQ 248.

5. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grondahl.

Grondahl discloses a display unit **10a** for use with a carry basket **1a** having a rim around the opening in the top of the basket. (The recitation that the carry basket is for shopping is merely a statement of intended use and has not been given patentable weight.) The display unit **10a** includes a display panel **15a** for receiving and displaying information, and a connection member **22** for supporting the display panel **15a** and being connectable to the carry basket **1a**, such that the display panel **15a** extends outwardly from the basket and is viewable from above while allowing a plurality of like carry baskets to be nested, the display unit further including a rim engaging portion (see Fig. 5) for fitting over and engaging the rim of the carry basket to facilitate support of the display panel.

Regarding claim 12, the recitation that the display panel has displayed thereon "an advertisement or a shop direction aid" has not been given patentable weight because it has been held that patentable novelty cannot be principally predicated on mere printed matter and arrangements thereof, but must reside basically in physical structure. *In re Montgomery*, 102 USPQ 248.

6. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Addison.

Addison discloses a display unit **20** for use with a shopping basket **10** that carries merchandise and that has a rim **29** around the opening in the top of the basket. The display unit **20** includes a display panel **23** for receiving and displaying information, and a connection member **26** for supporting the display panel **23** and being connectable to the basket **10**, such that the display panel **23** extends outwardly from the basket and is viewable from above while allowing a plurality of like carry baskets to be nested, the display unit further including a rim engaging portion **26** for fitting over and engaging the rim of the carry basket to facilitate support of the display panel.

Regarding claim 12, the recitation that the display panel has displayed thereon "an advertisement or a shop direction aid" has not been given patentable weight because it has been held that patentable novelty cannot be principally predicated on mere printed matter and arrangements thereof, but must reside basically in physical structure. *In re Montgomery*, 102 USPQ 248.

Allowable Subject Matter

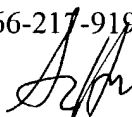
7. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
8. Claims 11, 16-19 and 23 are allowed.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary C Hoge whose telephone number is (703) 308-3422. The examiner can normally be reached on 5-4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (703) 308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gary C Hoge
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

gch